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The University of Montana

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NEW REFERENCE COLLECTIONS BOOST UM'S ASIAN-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

MISSOULA --

Efforts to expand and strengthen The University of Montana's Asian-language offerings gained considerable ground this year through several major acquisitions of Japanese and Chinese reference books.

The University recently arranged to purchase, for a fraction of its value, an extensive collection of Japanese reference works that will increase the University's Japanese-language collection "at least tenfold," said Professor Judith Rabinovitch, head of the Department of Foreign Language and Literatures' Japanese division.

UM's Chinese program received a similar boost through the donation of a major collection of Chinese reference works, and several recent grants provided additional funds for strengthening the Mansfield Library's previously tiny collection of Asian-language books, said Assistant Professor Timothy Bradstock, head of the Chinese division.

"This will greatly improve our teaching and research capacity," Rabinovitch said, adding that the improved reference offerings should assist plans to establish a major in Japanese and minors in Chinese and Japanese.

The University recently arranged to buy the Bailey Collection of Japanese Reference Works for \$15,000, she said, noting that the collection is "worth approximately three to four times that amount."

Amassed by the late Don Bailey, a former professor at the University of Arizona, the Japanese-language collection covers a broad range of topics including Japanese cultural history, literature and geography, she said. Funds to purchase and transport the collection will be provided by UM's College of

Arts and Sciences, Mansfield Library and Mansfield Center. The books are expected to arrive on campus within the next few weeks.

UM learned of the Bailey Collection through benefactor William Schultz, a retired University of Arizona professor who now lives in Whitefish. Schultz recently agreed to donate his entire collection of Chinese reference and literary works to UM over the next few years, Bradstock said. The first installment of that gift -- "about 10 cardboard cartons full" -- has already been received, he said.

"This is going to form the core around which we form our Chinese collection," Bradstock said, estimating the Schultz collection's value at about \$50,000.

The collection includes hundreds of volumes, including dynastic histories and rare first editions of Chinese fiction, he said. About half of the texts are in Chinese, he said, and the others are English-language discussions of Chinese topics.

Another recent boost to UM's Chinese reference collection came from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, which provided about \$16,000 in grant funds for basic reference and teaching materials about Chinese culture. The grant will be supplemented by \$9,000 in UM funds.

Two other recent grants -- \$20,000 from the Japan World Exposition Commemorative Fund and a Japan Foundation Book Donation Grant of about \$2,000 -- will augment the library's Japanese reference collection.

Bradstock and Rabinovitch, husband and wife, have been working to expand the University's Japanese and Chinese collections since they came to UM last January.

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